

## Newspaper Digitization Video-conference meeting --- January 10, 2005

### Present:

OCLC – Liz Bishoff, Tom Claeson  
Rapid City, SD – Greta Chapman, Renee Ponzio, Rapid City Public Library  
Pierre, SD – Dorothy Liegl, LaVera Rose from SD State Library  
Marvene Riis, Chelle Somsen -- SD Cultural Heritage Center/Archives/Hist. Soc.  
Huron, SD – Carol Yerigan, Howard Public Library,  
Phyllis Lauer, Howard Historical Society,  
Colleen Smith, Huron Public Library

Colleen Smith invited the above individuals to a video conference call to discuss the feasibility of a statewide historic newspaper digitization initiative. Colleen has a grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution to digitize a small portion of the Huron newspaper and to plan a statewide meeting on historic newspaper digitization. She has contracted with OCLC to work to plan these initiatives. Colleen discussed how she contacted the State Library on this effort and held an initial meeting with Liz in October. They were aware of the interest that Rapid City had in newspaper digitization, so it was important to include them in the discussions. This meeting is an initial effort to plan the statewide meeting. To determine to strategy for the meeting, agenda, and next steps.

1. LC/NEH Newspaper Digitization Initiative: Liz Bishoff provided an overview of the LC/NEH Newspaper Digitization Initiative. More information can be found at [www.NEH.gov](http://www.NEH.gov).

- The call for proposal was announced in July, 2004 with intent to submit a proposal due in September, 2004 and proposals due October, 2004. LC/NEH expect to make the awards in Spring, 2005. They received 15 proposals and will make a maximum of 10 awards. Each project will digitize 100,000 pages for a total of 1M pages on this initial phase. LC will also be digitizing materials from their collection. The participants can use upto 20% of their project from legacy digitization.
- The test project is covering the period 1900-1910, for future projects they will include papers 1836-1922, as these papers are in the public domain.
- Grant will cover Selection, Digital Conversion, Delivery of content file & metadata (OCR) product 80% NEH Funding, 20% Local Funding. The content is delivered through the Library of Congress. LC is responsible for the archiving of the newspapers. If the state wants additional processing or to deliver locally, the state will have to fund that.
- NEH sees this initiative as an outgrowth of the US Newspaper Project (USNP) and is therefore designed to use the microfilm created in that project. LaVera indicated that the South Dakota State Library has the microfilm from the USNP program.
- LC – will currently support only page-level indexing (free-text indexing), not article level indexing. At the meeting last summer at ALA, there was considerable concern about this decision, however LC believes that this is sufficient for access and it is much cheaper than article level indexing.
- CONTENTdm works with these specifications. The Olive Software product will require additional post-processing as it automatically does segmentation (article level indexing), which the LC/NEH product won't fund.

Archives & State Library would probably work together to prepare the grant.

2. Preparing South Dakota Libraries. for the next round of LC/NEH grant: As this round of proposals has past one approach that South Dakota can take is to prepare for the next round. Part of that would be the need to build support for the initiative in the state.

Developing a demonstration/pilot project: To arrange a pilot project, South Dakota will need to complete the Preservation Resources Questionnaire which Liz emailed to Colleen and Lavera Rose. It was agreed that LaVera would complete the questionnaire and return it to Liz.  
Need to get a count of number of pages of newspapers, condition of newspapers.  
Need to get a list of who is interested in participating –  
Need to decide Purpose of Project.  
Pricing –

Includes Conversion Project – product to produce TIFF images

Includes Hosting of the Product – will be hosted @ LC and can have link from local site if using grant funds.

SD Pilot Project – The group discussed possible topics for the pilot project.

Digitize 1 roll of SD microfilm for the demonstration. Originally they thought that they would use the period of statehood, 1889, but LaVera reported that the film isn't really good. The group suggested switching to WWI time frame. They hope to include samples from 4 papers – Rapid, Pierre, Howard, Huron.

### 3. Quality Issues in Newspaper Digitization – Bishoff

Creating quality digital product in initial digitization is important, so that you can migrate to future generations of software. To assure that you need create your images in TIFF not PDF, need XML output. Need to determine if you want to be able to create customized metadata or if you just want the system to create the metadata. Many projects have found that it's best that you have a system where you can add or modify metadata so that you can reflect the needs of the community, changing geographic names, consider the Historical vs Current language and how that impacts successful searches.

Other issues to consider in quality. Some times positive will work, but generally Negative film is preferred. Need to use Master Copy of Film as has not been used and doesn't have scratches. Scratches from use on a microfilm reader will cause problems with OCR.

4. Partnerships/Fundraising: The group discussed a range of funding and partnerships. Greta suggested that the legislature was a viable funding opportunity and that the date for the statewide meeting should be tied to a legislative request. Possible partners included: Newspaper Publishers – 2004 forward, Colleges/Universities, Genealogy Groups, SD Cultural Heritage Center/Archives, SD Memory Project, Local Library Friends Groups, individually owned newspapers, local fundraising projects, DAR groups, SD Humanities/Art Councils, and other grants.

### 5. Planning for Statewide Meeting

Date: Maybe March 24 (Thurs. before Easter) for Spring meeting (State Library meeting room is Available for this date.).

Location --State Library – would need access to Internet for demonstration of Pilot Project.

Sample News Releases would be helpful to use after attending meeting.

Invitation list: Chapman & Smith

Agenda: Chapman & Smith

Evaluation: Clareson

South Dakota Newspaper Digitization Meeting  
March 24, 2004  
South Dakota State Library  
Pierre South Dakota  
9:00-3:00  
TENTATIVE

- 9:00-9:30     Registration and Coffee
- 9:30-9:45     Welcome and Introduction—State Librarian (?)  
                 Purpose of the Meeting—Colleen Smith (?)
- 9:45-10:30    Improving access to South Dakota history through newspapers:  
                 Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Colorado State Library)  
                 Brenda will share the experience of the Colorado Historical Newspaper Project
- 10:30-10:45   Break
- 10:45-11:15   Options for Accessing Historic Newspapers—Bishoff  
                 Show some demo sites to show differences in projects/vendors products
- 11:15-11:45   Quality Issues in Newspaper Digitization--Bishoff
- 11:45-noon    LC/NEH Newspaper Digitization Initiative--Clareson
- Noon-12:45   Lunch
- 12:45-1:15    SD Newspaper Digitization Activities to Date – C. Smith/G. Chapman  
                 Historical papers – pre 1923
- 1:15-2:15    Opportunities Analysis—Bishoff/Clareson facilitate  
                 Group discussion on opportunities, barriers to a statewide initiative.
- 2:15-2:30    Break
- 2:30-3:00    Fundraising – Chapman  
                 Possible Partnerships – Smith and Rose,  
                 Legislative Funding Initiative – G. Chapman  
                 Discussion
- 3:00-3:30    Next Step:

SD Demo Product – Bishoff  
Questions/Discussion  
Evaluation Form